

they wanted her in the lead of the parade. That is why they insisted she should go on the Eastland, the first boat to leave. The prettiest girls and the manliest looking men were assigned to the Eastland.

"I begged her not to go," sobbed the mother. "I pleaded. I was afraid. But she said, 'Mother, I must.' They told her she must go or she would lose her job. The foreman told her. The told her she must go on the Eastland.

"At the boat her friends begged her not to go on that boat. Let's take another boat, they said. And they say she said, 'No, my boss told me I must go on the Eastland. I don't want to lose my job.'

"Oh, they forced her to go. They did. She was a good girl. She always obeyed. And she was afraid to lose her job."

The woman's voice rose to a shriek. She bent over the bier till her loosened hair mingled with the golden strands of her baby girl.

George Knuth keeps a delicatessen store at 4058 W. 26th st.

"All day I have heard the same story," said Knuth. "They made her go because they wanted her in the parade," a mother would say. "My husband went to keep from getting discharged," another would remark. I hear it everywhere that the workers were forced to go."

Jas. Van Cleve, 2416 Karlov av., says a foreman told him he was told he would have to "get busy" because his ticket sales were not strong enough.

"My wife worked for the Western Electric last year," said Arthur Schumacher. "We were not married then. She refused to go on the picnic last year. Shortly after she was discharged."

He said stories of people being intimidated into going were common. His father, Alfred Schumacher, proprietor of a cafe at 4157 W. 26th st., said likewise.

"I spent the day in the homes of

the dead," said Geo. Franz, Crawford and 26th. "Scores who perished were my personal friends. Everywhere I heard the story of coercion by foremen."

At the home of Frank Streit, 2510 S. Millard av., three daughters perished—Ella, Emma and Jennie. "Because Emma refused to buy a ticket last year the foreman fired her," said the father. "Ella was told the company would have a grudge against the girls who did not go," said Frances, sister of the three who perished.

Anna Levick and Alexia Worchack borrowed the money to buy the tickets. They told friends they had been warned they would lose their places if they did not go.

"Last year Anna did not go and the foreman gave her an awful calling down. This year she was afraid not to go," said Ernest Anderson, 2346 S. 50th, as he stood over the dead body of his sister.

Among the many others who told the same story was Cornelius Hoekema, 4124 W. 26th st. His stepdaughter, who had been with the Western Electric for 18 years, had talked to him about it.

This is a bit of the testimony of those whose loved ones perished. The testimony of other scores of employees yet living will not be repeated here, for if their names were used they would undoubtedly be fired immediately.

"Times have been dull," said one man who was pulled from the water. "I would be fired if you used my name in telling what I know."

The company denies, of course, that force was used to get a turn out. "That's all rot," said P. W. Bergquist, financial secretary of the Western Electric.

But listen to the story Miss Emma Grossmann, 2408 W. 12th st., told Chas. W. Bedford, 2221 S. Springfield av., whom she was soon to wed. Miss Grossman perished.

"Three weeks ago last Thursday," said Bedford. "the foreman in Miss